The question before the House that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,46,76,782 under Demand III—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage, was put to vote and carried. The motion was passed and the grant was made.

IV—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXCLUDING FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT, ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND LOCAL FUND AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: I move for a grant of Rs. 4,73,516 under Demand No. IV—General Administration excluding Financial Secretariat, Accountant General's Office, Legislative Bodies and Local Fund Audit Department.

PRESIDENT: Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai can move his motions later. Mr. Mahomed

MR. P. S. MAHOMED: സെക്രട്ടറിമാരുടെ ശമ്പളമായ ഒന്നര ര ാ രൂപായിൽ നിന്ന ഒരു രൂപ കറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉപക്ഷേപം ഞാൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

സർ, ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ഞാൻ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത് ഒരു സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടിയാണ്. മുന്നവർഷത്തിനുമുൻപുണ്ടായിരുന്ന സെക്രട്ടേറിയററിൻെറ ജോലിയുടെ സ്വഭാവവും, ഇന്നത്തെ സെക്രട്ടേറിയററിൻെറ സ്വഭാവവും തമ്മിൽ വളരെ വ്യത്യാസമുണ്ട്. മുമ്പു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ദൈനന്ദിനകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രം സെക്രട്ടേറിയററു ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ മതിയാകുമായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നാകട്ടെ, യുദ്ധപരിതഃസ്ഥിതിനിമിത്തം മറെറപലജോലികൾകൂടി സെക്രട്ടേറിയററു ക്ലർക്ക് വഹിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആലപ്പുഴ, കോട്ടയം, മുതലായ വാണിജ്യകേന്ദ്രങ്ങളിൽ, കച്ചവടം നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ആളുകളിൽ മിക്കവരേയും, ഇപ്പോൾ തിരുവനന്തപുരം സന്ദർശിക്കുന്ന ഒരാളിന് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുവച്ച് കാണുവാൻ കഴിയും. ഇത്ര വളരെ ആളുകൾ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു വരുന്നത് അവരുടെ കച്ചവടസംബന്ധമായ സംഗതികൾ, ഒരു വിധത്തിൽ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ മറെറാരുവിധത്തിൽ, സെക്രട്ടേറിയററുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണ്. ചുരുക്കിപ്പറഞ്ഞാൽ, സെക്രട്ടേറിയററിലെ ഏററവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു ജോലി, കൺട്രോൾ സംബന്ധമായും, വാണിജ്യസംബന്ധമായും ഉള്ള നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുക എന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഇവിടെ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നവർ ശരിയായി ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

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[Mr. P. S. Mahomed]

സർ, ഇത്ര ദൂരത്തുനിന്ന് ഇത്രയധികം ആളുകളെ ഇവിടെ വരുത്തത്തക്ക നിലയിൽ പ്രാധാന്യം അഹ്നിക്കുന്ന ജോലി ആയത് നിർവഹിക്കപ്പെട്ടന്നോ കാലാന്തരത്തിൽ അവരുടെ സന്മാർഗ്ഗപരമായ നിലയ്ക്ക് ഒരു വ്യത്യാസം വരുമെന്നുള്ളത് തീർച്ചയാണ്. ഈ ക്ലാർക്കൻമാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ തന്നിമിത്തം ചില ന്യൂനതകൾ സംഭവിക്കാനും ഇടയുണ്ട്. ഇക്കാര്യം ഇവിടത്തെ സെക്രട്ടറിമാരും, അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സെക്രട്ടറിമാരും പ്രത്യേകം അറിയേണ്ടതാണ്. കൺട്രോൾ സംബന്ധമായ കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി, കോട്ടയം, പെരുമ്പാവൂർ, തൊടുപുഴ എന്നിങ്ങനെയുള്ള ദൂരസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്ത് വരുന്ന ആളുകളെ കാര്യമില്ലാതെ ഇവിടെ രണ്ടും മൂന്നും ദിവസം താമസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഒരു വാസന ഇവിടത്തെ ക്ലാർക്കൻമാരുടെ ഇടയിൽ കാണുന്നു. തന്മൂലം ഇങ്ങനെവരുന്നവർക്ക് വലിയ പണച്ചെലവുണ്ടാകുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. അവർ വന്നിരിക്കുന്നത് കൺട്രോൾ ഉള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങുവാനാണ്. ആ സാമാനങ്ങൾ കൺട്രോൾ വിലയ്ക്കുതന്നെ അവർ വിൽക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതു നിർബ്ബന്ധമാണ്. ആ നിലയ്ക്ക് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തേക്കുള്ള പോക്കുവരവിനും പുറമേ അനാവശ്യമായി ഇവിടെ താമസിക്കുന്നതും, കൂടി പണച്ചെലവു ഉണ്ടാക്കിയാൽ ഈ കച്ചവടക്കാർ വളരെ വിഷമിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു തീർച്ചയാണല്ലോ. അവർ നഷ്ടം സഹിക്കുകയില്ല എന്നു നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ സാധനങ്ങൾ ബ്ലാക്ക് മാർക്കറ്റിൽ വിറ്റഴിക്കുവാനെ അവർ നോക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. സെക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റുകാർ ഒന്നു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ ബ്ലാക്ക് മാർക്കറ്റിന്റെ ശല്യം വളരെ കുറയ്ക്കാൻ കഴിയും.

ഒരു സംഗതികൂടി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ട്. കൺട്രോൾ സംബന്ധമായ സാധനങ്ങൾ കയറ്റി ഇറക്കുന്നതിന് നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ പ്രധാനമായി വള്ളങ്ങളാണ് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നത്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും, വ്യവസായികൾക്കും പ്രധാന ആശ്രയമായിരിക്കുന്നത് വള്ളം മുഖേനയുള്ള ഗതാഗതമാണ്. ചേത്തല താലൂക്കിനെത്തന്നെ എടുക്കുക. അവിടത്തെ കച്ചവടമോ, വ്യവസായമോ വള്ളം മുഖേനയല്ലാതെ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല. അവിടത്തെ കാർഷികവും വ്യാവസായികവുമായ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾ മറുവാഹനങ്ങളിൽ കൂടിയാണ് ട്രാൻസ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്നതെങ്കിൽ, അതിനു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചെലവിന്റെ പത്തിലൊരംശം ചെലവുകൊണ്ട് വള്ളം മുഖേന അതു സാധിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. അതുകൊണ്ട് കച്ചവടക്കാരും, ഫാക്ടറി ഉടമസ്ഥൻമാരും അവരുടെ സ്വന്തചെലവിൽ അവിടെ വള്ളങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ

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വള്ളങ്ങൾ അവരുടെ സ്വന്തം ആവശ്യത്തിനായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. മറ്റു ചിലർ വള്ളം ക്രയിക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി സ്വന്തമായി വള്ളം ഉണ്ടാക്കി കച്ചവടക്കാരുടേയും, വ്യവസായികളുടേയും ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കായി കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നു. മൂന്നാമതൊരുകൂട്ടർ, വള്ളം ക്രയിക്കു വാങ്ങി അവരുടെ സ്വന്ത ഉത്തരവാദിത്തത്തിമേൽ സാമാനങ്ങൾ കയറ്റുകയും ഇറക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറു വള്ളം ഇപ്പോൾ കമാൻഡീയർ ചെയ്യുന്നതുപോലല്ല. ഈ ഏർപ്പാടുകൊണ്ടു മുമ്പു പറഞ്ഞ മൂന്നുകൂട്ടർക്കും വിഷമങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും സാമാനങ്ങൾ കയറ്റിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ അതു് കമാൻഡീയർ ചെയ്യേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് ആ വള്ളം പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശ്രമിച്ചുവരുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ കമാൻഡീയർ ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ മൂന്നുകൂട്ടർക്കും സാമാന്യനഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും കൂടുതൽ ക്ലേശവും, നഷ്ടവും സഹിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതു് മൂന്നാമത്തെ കൂട്ടർക്കാണു്. അവർ വള്ളം അവരുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിനായി പണിയിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വള്ളം കമാൻഡീയർ ചെയ്തെടുക്കുമ്പോൾ വള്ളത്തിന്റെ ഉടമസ്ഥനു ക്രയി ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൊടുക്കുന്നു. വള്ളക്കാരന്റെ ക്രയിയും ഗവണ്മെൻറുതന്നെ ഉടമസ്ഥനുമായി യാതൊരു ബന്ധവും ഇല്ലാതെ കൊടുക്കുന്നു. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു, കുറവുവരുന്ന ചരക്കിന്റെ വില വള്ളഉടമസ്ഥൻ ഉത്തരിക്കണമെന്നു ഇപ്പോൾ വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ചട്ടം ഒരിക്കലും നീതിക്കും, മര്യാദയ്ക്കും ചേർന്നതല്ല. എന്നല്ല എല്ലാവള്ളവും കമാൻഡീയർ ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതും ശരിയല്ല. കഴിയുമെങ്കിൽ ഒരു ഫാക്ടറിക്കു ഒരു വള്ളമെങ്കിലും അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം. ഒരു ഫാക്ടറി ഉടമസ്ഥനു കുറഞ്ഞതു വള്ളം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കൂടുതലായി കാണുന്ന വള്ളം പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതിനു വിരോധമില്ല.

MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Karunagapally cum Kartikapally*): ഫാക്ടറിയുടെ വലിപ്പച്ചെറുപ്പമനുസരിച്ചു് വള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വിരോധമുണ്ടോ? അതായതു് കൂടുതൽ ജോലി നടത്തുന്ന ഫാക്ടറിക്കു് മറ്റതിൽ കൂടുതൽ വള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ വിരോധമുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED: ഒരു വിരോധവുമില്ല.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Advocate General*): വള്ളങ്ങൾ മറ്റും സെക്രട്ടറിയേറ്റുകാർ അല്ല പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതെന്നുള്ള വിവരം മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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MR. P. S. MAHOMED : ഒരുത്തന്റെ കൈവശം ഒരു വള്ളമേ ഉള്ളൂ. വെങ്കിൽ ആ വള്ളം കമാൻഡീയരചെയ്യുവാൻവേണ്ടി എടുക്കുന്നതു സങ്കടമാണു. വള്ളം ഇങ്ങനെ പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ക്ലേശമനുഭവിക്കുന്നതു് വള്ളക്കാരാണു. എപ്പോഴാണു വള്ളം പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതെന്ന അവക്കു നിശ്ചയമില്ല. ഇവർ കച്ചവടക്കാരോ, വ്യവസായികളോ അല്ല. വെറും കൂലിക്കാർ മാത്രമാണു്. ചരക്കുകളും വള്ളത്തിൽ കയറ്റി, കൊച്ചിയിലേയ്ക്കു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന വഴിക്കായിരിക്കും ചിലപ്പോൾ കമാൻഡീയർ ചെയ്യാൻ വരുന്നതു്. അതു് ഇവരെ എത്ര മാത്രം വിഷമിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നു് ഞാൻ പറയാതെതന്നെ അറിയാമല്ലോ.

PRESIDENT : Is the honourable member aware that Government for the purpose of food supply need only about 650 valloms out of a total of about 5000 or 6000 valloms in the State?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED : ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ തീയതി ഒരു ചോദ്യം ചോദിച്ചിരുന്നു; സ്റ്റേറ്റിലുള്ള വള്ളംകൊണ്ടു മതിയാകയില്ലേ, അതു് മതിയാകുമെങ്കിൽ, പിന്നെ വള്ളം കമാൻഡീയർചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യം ഇല്ലല്ലോ എന്നു്. അതിനു് എനിക്കു ലഭിച്ച മറുപടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് ഇപ്പോൾ അതു പറയാറായിട്ടില്ലാ എന്നാണു്. അദ്ധ്യക്ഷസ്ഥാനത്തുനിന്നു പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഈ സ്റ്റേറ്റിലുള്ള വള്ളത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുവന്നാൽ, എനിക്കു ഒരു പരാതിയുമില്ല.

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR : Sir, no boat under eight tons is commandeered and I may tell for the information of the House that only 650 valloms have been so commandeered for he purpose of food supply.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED : എട്ടു ടണ്ണിൽ കൂടുതലുള്ള ൬൫൦ വള്ളമേ കമാൻഡീയർ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളൂ എന്നു ഇപ്പോൾ പറയുന്നു. വേണമെങ്കിൽ അൻപതു വള്ളംകൂടി എടുത്തുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. അതു കഴിഞ്ഞു പിന്നെ വള്ളം എടുക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു ഉറപ്പുപറഞ്ഞാൽ വള്ളക്കാർക്കു് അതു വളരെ ആശ്വാസകരമായിരിക്കും.

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : ആവശ്യത്തിനുള്ള വള്ളം എടുക്കുക എന്നല്ലാതെ വള്ളത്തിന്റെ എണ്ണം തിട്ടപ്പെടുത്തി മുൻകൂട്ടി പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ ?

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MR. P. S. MAHOMED : ൬ ൦ ൦ വള്ളം എങ്കിലേശം ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ ൬൫൦ വള്ളം പിടിച്ചെടുത്തുകൊള്ളണം? ബാക്കിയുള്ള വള്ളക്കാർക്ക് ദൈവം കിട്ടുമല്ലോ.

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഒരു വള്ളം പോലും പിടിച്ചെടുക്കുകയില്ല.

PRESIDENT : That cannot be so, because such a complaint reached me about six or seven months ago. Thereupon a communique was published to the effect that Government wants about 650 valloms at the utmost. It was not the intention of Government to commandeer any more than that. But if there has been any derogation from that order it is open to the honourable member to point it out. Has there been any disobedience of that order ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED. Yes, Sir. ഇതുയും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ട് എന്റെ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : Sir, in supporting the motion of Mr. Mahomed, I wish to bring to the notice of Government the general sense of discontent among the public as regards a few items of control measures in the State. I should particularly refer to the control on the quality of tapioca. The Government in their anxiety to promote tapioca cultivation have removed the ban on its export. At the same time they insist on a certain standard of quality for tapioca flour. Though the ban is actually removed the rule regarding the insistence of quality is tantamount to control restrictions.

PRESIDENT : Does the honourable member think that we should remove control on tapioca?

MR. P. O. THOMAS : I will refer to that. I find that anxiety to continue the restriction is due to the fact that Government are anxious to keep up their prestige.....

PRESIDENT : It is not a question of prestige at all. I know today that there is tremendous competition between maize and one or two other articles, and tapioca. The Government of Hyderabad is spending about 20 lakhs of rupees on subsidies to grow maize in order that they may supply starch to Bombay mills. We have got an advantage in tapioca. Some of the top men of the leading mills of whom I am personally acquainted have complained to me that although the original tapioca starch sent from Travancore was of very good quality they would have to prefer maize to the present Travancore tapioca. What is the honourable member's solution for that?

MR. P. O. THOMAS : Control on tapioca was first introduced to tide over the exigencies of the food situation. Now the purpose of the restriction is something more than that. As a matter of fact control measures can be justified only in times of emergencies and during the war period.

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PRESIDENT: I should like to know from the honourable member and the House whether they are against any such insistence on quality or whether unrestricted export is what is wanted.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: I want to bring to the notice of the House that there is practical difficulty experienced by persons on account of control.

PRESIDENT: This is a matter on which I would like to take the vote of the House. I know definitely that we shall lose the tapioca starch market, if there is no insistence on its quality. If the honourable members think that control measures should be stopped I should like to take the vote of the House on that matter.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: If the business men of Bombay find that the quality does not satisfy their requirements my view is that they must be allowed to protect themselves by having safeguards and precautions.

PRESIDENT: They will protect themselves. They will buy from elsewhere, and that is a certainty.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: As regards that matter I should bring to the notice of the Chair the previous statements from the Chair regarding the availability of Travancore starch and the rest of it. There was a more or less exclusive command of tapioca for our State and the neighbouring State of Cochin.

PRESIDENT: What about maize?

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Regarding that I was told by certain gentleman who were conversant with the quality of tapioca starch that it was even superior to maize. The business men of Bombay will be anxious to prefer tapioca to maize.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know from the member, after the removal of the ban on tapioca, whether the price of that commodity has gone down or gone up?

MR. P. O. THOMAS: To me it seems that the removal of ban has not materially enhanced the price of that commodity. When once the purpose of the original control order is not in existence, my view is that the Government must remove the entire ban. There is practical difficulty experienced on account of that. Suppose a man stores tapioca flour he has to get a certificate from Government regarding the quality and standard of the flour. That apprehension to obtain a certificate itself will tell upon the rate at which he is purchasing from the common cultivator. That will ultimately have a prejudicial effect on the price of tapioca and that will affect the common ryot who is cultivating tapioca. Therefore my point is that when the original purpose is not in existence the ban must be removed as a whole. The continuing of the restriction is again trying to suffocate the people who are already worried a lot by reason of control measures. No doubt in times of emergency and war situation people are bound to suffer a little but when that particular event is no more existing, Government must be generous enough to raise all ban on commodities.

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PRESIDENT : If the public wants this ban to be removed today, I will only be glad to do so. But I warn the public that their present tapioca starch will not be sold. If they are prepared to stand that risk, I am prepared to remove the ban immediately.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : May I definitely state that the public of Travancore do want the control to be exercised in respect of the quality of the article. And every one who has anything to do with starch will testify to that.

PRESIDENT : I should like to take the vote of the House on that matter, after the member has finished the speech.

MR. P. O. THOMAS ; There are several other items over which ban has to be removed. Now that the Government is ready to ascertain the view of the House I leave the matter at that and proceed to some other matter.

In regard to all these control measures I think it is high time that Government relax their control on some items such as onions and chillies

PRESIDENT : We do not export that.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : I am just referring to the control price of those commodities. That defect was pointed out by Mr. Mohamed also. As a matter of fact even yesterday a merchant from our side explained to the Director of Food supplies about the difficulties he felt in importing chillies from British India. He got a permit for importing that. According to him if he imports chillies from British India as per the market rate existing there, he will not be able to sell at the control rate existing here. On a former occasion I myself brought this matter to the notice of the Director of Food supplies.

MR. V. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Thovala cum Agasteeswaram*) : May I know the member's source of information ?

MR. P. O. THOMAS : This is the information I got from the leading business men of North Travancore. One of their agents who went to British Parts felt difficulty in the matter of the price of onions. I was told that the present control rate is less than the market rate prevailing at the centre of production.

PRESIDENT : If so, I ask the honourable member, why do at least 25 lawyers propose to give up their profession and apply for permits for chillies and onions if they are to sell here at lesser price than the market price. I can say at least that 25 lawyers have definitely told me that they will give up their practice if only they get permits to import chillies and onions. I have exhorted them not to give up their practice and previous experience because this trading in onions and chillies is after all a small matter. In order to avoid this kind of trouble and also profiteering, I declined to give any permit excepting at the instance of the Collector of Tinnevelly and the Collector has been definitely told that there are certain number of people who have been dealing in chillies and onions and discretion may be used in the matter of giving permits. Further it is from Tinnevelly onions and chillies have to come here mainly. Therefore, if the control rates here

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[President]

are iniquitous and so much less than the rate in British India, why should the Government of Travancore be getting so many applications for permits for chillies and onions. I think there are 500 or 600 applications like that. Within the last 10 or 15 days, I got 10 applications or so out of which 3 are from lawyers and they have stated that they will give an undertaking that for one year they will not practice. There is a rule to the effect that if they cease to practice for one year, they can continue their practice only after obtaining Government sanction. On account of that they had applied for that as well. I ask the question, why should the lawyers go in for that trade if conditions are as stated by the honourable member?

MR. P. O. THOMAS. There are two reasons. The price of onion is fluctuating very much. Sometimes it will be very low.

PRESIDENT: In other words, it is speculation.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: When the price is very low they will be able to purchase that and sell it at the present rate when they will make a margin of profit. Then there are some clever people who can sell at the profitable rates in spite of the control rate. They are confident that they could manage to get things done conveniently. They are confident that they will be able to make a margin of profit and so on account of these two reasons there may be a rush of applicants. But the merchants find it impossible to deal with this matter. There is the other aspect, Sir. This is a matter on which the Director of Food supplies agreed with me on a former occasion when I had a personal talk with him.

Sir, a word about the tyre situation in the country. In spite of the fact that an able secretary was at the helm of that section we had instances of some subordinates resorting to foul play. I request that Government may take special care regarding that matter. Now that the Inspector-General of Police is in charge of the Tyre control, we expect that things will go on justly. With these words I support the motion.

PRESIDENT: It is so important a matter that I would, after 2 or 3 more honourable members have spoken on the motion, put it to the vote of the House.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON: (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): Sir, I differ from the honourable member Mr. Thomas in not insisting on the quality of tapioca starch. There were instances of adulteration when the tapioca powder was exported to Bombay from this State. My friend Mr. Krishna Menon, Oriental Agencies has personally told me that he received tapioca power mixed with sand from this state. If the quality of tapioca powder which is exported is not maintained outside markets are surely going to capture the Bombay market. Even at present the Salem tapioca starch is slowly capturing the Bombay market. Therefore it is highly necessary in the interest of this trade of the State that restriction in the quality of tapioca powder exported

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from Travancore should be maintained. Otherwise, there will be no demand for our tapioca powder from outside. Therefore, I am of the opinion that restriction on the quality of the tapioca starch has to be maintained by Government.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Sir, there is really a misconception with regard to the ideas about control in all these matters. There is a complaint that Indian merchants generally and Travancore merchants especially, are not acting up to the best tradition of honesty in the matter of trade.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member might perhaps have known that when Japan entered world market, Japanese samples and Japanese deliveries were fundamentally different and that after the first rush when Japan practically captured the world market especially with regard to cutlery and paper they went out of the market chiefly because of adulteration.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: I do not say that every business man is like that.

PRESIDENT: A very eminent Judge when delivering a judgement said that there are two kinds of morality; one the ordinary morality and the other the commercial morality.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Even in the matter of business morality I know instances of cashewnut merchants and also cashewnut producers marketing the worst material and trying to get the best along with those people who really trade in the best.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Is the honourable member in that business?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: I am not in the business. But I know it personally.

PRESIDENT: Soliloquy and dialogue are as is attempted at present not conducive to the debate in the House.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: I do not impute motives to anybody here. I know small dealers who are really dealing in cashewnut just plucking up the tender cashewnut drying it and immediately marketing it. In the same way we have heard of complaints with regard to tapioca starch. There are instances in which people have told me that they add the worst material, lime for instance.

PRESIDENT: Small pebbles were added.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPAN PILLAI: Lime was added to tapioca starch so much so that I have personally known while at Bombay that the business has gone down on that account. Therefore, some sort of control is necessary for grading and marketing. There is no question with regard to that. Unless there is some control exercised generally we will lose in the foreign market and ultimately the producer will have to suffer. But the producers in Travancore have never been used to such control and think that it is a sin against them. They really fall a prey to the business talents of this type and lose the value of their products. They do not know how their produce can come to its own in foreign markets by proper control as to grading and marketing.

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PRESIDENT: I think the petition must be made clear on one point. The control that is established will not be a control exercised by revenue officers, the Tahsildars or the Pakuthy Officers. Various centres will be started where under the auspices of the University certain appertenances will be installed and people entitled to issue certificates on the basis of analysis. That will be the kind of control that is contemplated and if they get certificates from those centres, export will be allowed.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Therefore, that control is necessary is beyond question. What the people really fear is against control over control. I mean the laxity and laches of the officers concerned who have been dealing with control measures is the one terror to the people. It has been exhibited on all hands that these officers have been dealing with it very badly and it has produced a fear in the minds of the people so much so that when they hear about control, they raise a hue and cry. If any commodity is going to be controlled, they at once accuse the Government or those people who support them generally and think that the value of the commodity has gone down because of control and control alone. If it is to be exercised only in the sense in which the Dewan has pointed out that there will be only a testing as to quality and if some other agency than revenue, police or excise is to supervise, it is all good. But what has been done till now with regard to control measures, should certainly not be continued hereafter. Some non-official agency which knows trading and also how to exploit foreign markets must be entrusted with the task of controlling the trade.

PRESIDENT: Will the member suggest how?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: It must be constituted. Some business men who know the thing.....

PRESIDENT: Should they be those in the trade or from outside.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In the trade.

MR. K. A. MAHOMED: Sir, we are rather begging the question. When we view the question from the business man's point it is quite natural that there were malpractices and adulteration of the stuff when the prices were abnormally high and there was a growing market. When the prices are normal we need not fear adulteration : for there will be free competition and only best stuff will be put in the market for sale. Take the case of Tapioca. Now the prices are normal the market has come down and only fair dealings can secure a good market. So it will be the look out of every businessman to build up a goodwill for his powder. So there can be absolutely no fear of any malpractices as it was before. My friend said that there was adulteration and therefore control should continue. But I say that there was adulteration because then this powder was more or less a monopoly of our state and the prices were so high. Now there can be no apprehension about malpractices for only honest businessmen can thrive. So I plead for the lifting of all state control on the export of Tapioca powder.

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MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I rise merely to repudiate the statement made about the commercial community by the honourable member Mr. Chellappan Pillai.

MR. K. K CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: It is not on the commercial community.....

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: It will be a dereliction of duty if I do not uphold the prestige of the commercial community. I was really sorry that it should come from Mr. Chellappan Pillai who aims at utopian things like responsible government. If he has got such poor conception of the commercial community, it is very pitiable. I leave it at that.

I maintain Sir, that no class, race or community can be an exception. Human nature is everywhere the same. There is a proverb in Tamil. If you go the other side it is just like the same. If there has been any lowering of the business morality, it is because of the inroad got into the trade because of the exigencies of war condition. As the Dewan President has said, even lawyers try to get into business I maintain that the business men have kept up their traditions.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: (*Minachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): സർ, ഈ കപ്പക്കും കപ്പപ്പൊടിക്കുമുള്ള കൺട്രോൾ എടുത്തുകളയണമോ വേണ്ടയോ എന്ന വാദമുഖങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ പല മെമ്പറന്മാരും പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ചപ്പോൾ ഈ കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കും ഒരു സംഗതി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നുള്ള ആഗ്രഹമുണ്ടായി. ലക്ഷണമൊത്ത ക്ഷാമം വന്നതോടുകൂടി നാട്ടിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗത്തും കപ്പകൃഷി വളരെ കൂടുതലായി വർദ്ധിച്ചു. കപ്പകൃഷി ഇരട്ടിക്കുകതന്നെ ചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ കൺട്രോൾ വന്നതോടുകൂടി കപ്പകൃഷി വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ കപ്പകൃഷി ആദായമല്ലാതാണിരിക്കുന്നത്. കപ്പയുടെ കൺട്രോൾ പൂർണ്ണമായി എടുത്തുകളഞ്ഞുവെങ്കിൽ മാത്രമേ കപ്പകൃഷി അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുകയുള്ളൂ. കൺട്രോൾ എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ഭയമാണ്. കൺട്രോൾനിമിത്തം കർഷകർക്കും കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും വിഷമതകളും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളും നേരിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ കൺട്രോൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയ സമയത്തു കർഷകർ ഈ കൃഷിയിൽ വലിയ താല്പര്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ കൺട്രോൾ എടുത്തുകളഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ കൃഷി വളരെ വിപുലമായ തോതിൽ നാട്ടിൽ പരന്നു തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇനി ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ പെർമിഷനില്ലാതെ മരച്ചീനിയോ മരച്ചീനിപ്പൊടിയോ കയറ്റി അയക്കാമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു നിയമം കൂടി വന്നാൽ ഈ കപ്പകൃഷിയെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല, നാട്ടിൽ സാമ്പത്തികമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുണ്ടാകുകയും ചെയ്യും. അതിനാൽ നിലവിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കൺട്രോൾ പിൻവലിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

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MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*): വിലയുടെ കൺട്രോളോ അതോ കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ കൺട്രോളോ എടുത്തുകളയണമെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടത്തു?

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: മരച്ചീനിയിൽ ഇന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്ന സകലവിധ കൺട്രോളും എടുത്തുകളയണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടത്തു. അങ്ങിനെയായാൽ എവിടെ അതു് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ അവിടെ കൊണ്ടുചെന്നു വിറ്റു ചക്രമാക്കാനുള്ള സാമർത്ഥ്യം ഇന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ വ്യവസായികർക്കുണ്ടു. അവരെ വ്യവസായം അതുപോലെ പഠിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട. വ്യവസായം ചെയ്തു ചക്രം വാങ്ങിക്കാനും അതുപോലെ പഠിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട. അവർക്ക് അതിനുള്ള തൻറേടവും ബുദ്ധിയും ഉണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ നിയന്ത്രണത്തിൽനിന്നും അവനെ ഒഴിച്ചുവിട്ടാൽ മതി, അവൻ ബാംബെയിലോ, അമേരിക്കയിലോ, ലണ്ടനിലോ ഇതുകൊണ്ടുചെന്നു വിറ്റു ചക്രമാക്കിക്കൊള്ളും. അതുകൊണ്ടു തൽക്കാലയായും ഈ കൺട്രോൾ എടുത്തുകളയേണ്ടതാണ്. പക്ഷെ വ്യാവസായികമായ എൻറെ പരിചയക്കുറവുകൊണ്ടായിരിക്കുമോ ഈ അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടായതെന്നു നിശ്ചയമില്ല. എന്നിരുന്നാലും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ തീവ്രമായ അഭിപ്രായം കപ്പയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള സകലവിധ കൺട്രോളും എടുത്തുകളയുന്നതു അവർക്ക് അനുഗ്രഹപ്രദമാണെന്നാണ്.

MR. V. GANGADHARAN NAIR (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): Sir, I strongly oppose the laissez-faire mentality demonstrated here by some of my friends. Sir, it is in the interest of the country that the Government should come forward to expand markets for our tapioca powder. As a result of the enormous growth of tapioca here now it has been proved beyond doubt that there is great possibility for us to improve our trade in tapioca. There have been instances of a very large number recently to show that, due to adulteration, we have failed to up-hold the prestige of tapioca powder in outside markets. I request the Government to interfere in this trade most effectively, to organise this trade, and to try to find out more markets for the tapioca powder and to improve the trade, which, of course, will go a great deal to improve the standard of living of the people in Travancore.

Sir, unlike other controls, the control existing, for tapioca is in the interests of the producers and business men of Travancore who are extremely poor. This is an industry carried on by the poor people of the country. Even if it be found that there is adulteration in the stuff, it cannot be detected. So a laboratory is necessary to test the product. A standard must be fixed and some sort of control to maintain this standard should be effected. But vesting the industry and establishing a monopoly in favour of individuals or giving mono-

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polies to people who are not actually in the land are detrimental to the interests of the people. There is a misapprehension.....

PRESIDENT : There is no reason for that, because the policy of Government has been explained. There must be one or two factories using up-to-date methods and producing very high quality of tapioca starch so that the quality might be established and made known to other persons so that they might emulate. The policy of the Government is that no big factories beyond three or four for the whole State will be brought into existence. All the rest of it will necessarily be cottage industry. In order to keep a standard and in order to see what may be done, three or four factories are necessary and for that purpose, Government have called for applications from the people.

MR. V. GANGADHARAN NAIR : Sir, I welcome the measure s taken for the establishment of control so that we may keep up a fair name for our products in foreign markets.

MR. G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : സർ, കപ്പയുടെ കൺട്രോൾ എടുത്തുകളയണമെന്നുള്ള വാദത്തെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനുമുമ്പു ഈ നാട്ടിലെ നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ വില കുറഞ്ഞു, നാട്ടുകാർ കഷ്ടപ്പെടാനിടയായപ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള നാളികേരത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം വിദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഒരു മാർക്കറ്റ് ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാനുള്ള ശ്രമം മി. ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ളയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇവരുടെ (ചങ്ങനാശ്ശേരി മുതൽപേരുടെ) ശ്രമഫലമായി ഇവിടെനിന്നും ഉരുളൻതേങ്ങാ ബാംബെയിലേക്കയച്ചു വിൽപന നടത്തുന്നതിനും അങ്ങിനെ ഇവിടത്തെ നാളികേരത്തിനു ഒരു മാർക്കറ്റു നേടുന്നതിനും ഉള്ള ശ്രമമാണ് ആദ്യമായി നടന്നതു. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ കച്ചവടക്കാർ കൂടുതൽ ലാഭമുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടി വിളഞ്ഞ നാളികേരത്തോടുകൂടി വിളവു കുറഞ്ഞ നാളികേരത്തെയും ബാംബെയ്ക്കു അയയ്ക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങി. ഈ വക കൃത്രിമങ്ങളുടെ ഫലമായി ഒടുവിൽ ഈ നാട്ടിലെ നാളികേരം ബാംബെ മാർക്കറ്റിൽ നിരസിക്കപ്പെട്ടു. ആ വ്യവസായരീതി പരാജയപ്പെടുകയാണു ചെയ്തതു. അതുപോലെ കപ്പയുടെ കാര്യവും quality കൺട്രോൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ നശിച്ചുപോകാനാണ് എളുപ്പമുള്ളതു. കപ്പയുടെ ഗുണം എത്രത്തോളം നിഷ്കർഷിക്കാമോ അത്രത്തോളം നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണു എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. അതിനാൽ quality, കൺട്രോൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Sir, having the responsibility of representing a predominantly agricultural people, who cultivate tapioca, I appeal to the House to give me a patient hearing.

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In recent years, tapioca cultivation has expanded very considerably on account of the demand for tapioca starch. The cost of production of tapioca was also high and not uniform all over the State. The prices also soared high. Government then thought of controlling or restricting the export of starch to maintain its purity and announced that they were prepared to buy it at the rate of Rs. 25 per cwt, and fixed the quantity for export somewhere near 600 tons per month or so. On that announcement, good number of poor people and co-operative societies manufactured starch and sold a fair portion of it to the Government. The Co-operative Department organised a central Co-operative Society to buy and market the starch in bulk. If I am correct, Sir, today that central co-operative Society has got some 300 tons with them. Because of the difficulty experienced in maintaining the quality of the starch for export the Government instituted a test for its purity under the University Research branch. Then the prices became stagnant and did not go up. Two or three big merchants also came into the market and they purchased the starch; and when this was going on, other varieties of starch also came into the markets at Bombay for example the starch produced by the dry process in the Madras Pesidency. On account of this competition the Bombay market for starch went down and the big merchants who purchased and stocked a decent quantity did not buy afterwards. At this psychological stage, the Government lifted the ban on the representaion of the public or on their own initiative—I concede there was some representation from some people—and slowly withdrew from the field. Government promised to give export licenses to people who have some minimum quantity, provided the quantity to be exported was tested by the research branch of the University and certified to be pure. By this announcement, the price of starch again fell—starch which was being sold at Rs. 25 per cwt. went down to Rs. 18 or 20. That is my presonal knowledge. I am in touch with it though not a trader in it.

Another factor about which I may speak is about the co-operative societies that have embarked on the scheme of producing and selling tapioca starch. I know the case of a particular society. They have supplied 9 tons to the central co-operative society for testing and export and it is still lying with the Central Co-operative Society unsold.

PRESIDENT: Why is it lying?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Because the Co-operative Society has not as yet been able to get a market at Bombay for export.

PRESIDENT: Why?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: The market is dull and price has gone down. Unless we are able to sell at more than 23 rupees, we will not get a profit, that is the position. If my information is correct, the stock which Government held has already been sold out. Now, it is a very dull market at Bombay for our starch.

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Under these circumstances, Sir, may I just indulge in a few generalisations. In the initial stages of any industry it is the duty of all Governments to strengthen it by enforcing controls so that the industry might become established. We were producing tapioca for the last 100 years and we had never a market for its starch. Because of the exigencies of the war and simply because other starches were not available in the market, Travancore got a market for its tapioca starch at Bombay. My friend Mr. Mohamed was telling as that people anxious to become quickly rich, indulged in incorrect methods and as a result, the quality deteriorated and its value also fell. Now, when the quality of our starch has become poor and when on the other side of the Ghats extensive areas are being planted with tapioca, and factories have also been instituted at Salem and Erode to manufacture tapioca flour by the dry process, our product gets a lower price in the Bombay market than the one we were getting we produce by the wet process. Here it is essentially a cottage industry conducted by the poor people. The wet process does not give an opportunity to develop it into a big factory industry. But the market cannot and will not be steady at Bombay for the product required quality obtained under this wet process as well unless it is pure and of. Taking into consideration the extensive area that we have under cultivation it is up to Government to make the market steady for tapioca starch. The Government must make it possible for the outside world to know that the starch exported from Travancore is of the required purity and quality.

PRESIDENT: What is the total quantity of Salem cultivation, I mean the acreage? It might be bigger this year when compared with last years. But it is not so large as what we have.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, I concede that.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I may say that one of the large producers in Salem happens to be a personal friend of mine and he told me that it was merely on account of these restrictions that various persons in other places started cultivation. Otherwise, they would not have cultivated.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, in the field of tapioca cultivation they may not be competitors with us but when we are going to allow the possibility of loosing our market by not maintaining the purity of the starch, the trade will go out of our hands. The mill owners naturally want the cheapest variety, but in the interests of the people of Travancore we have to hold the market for tapioca starch. We cannot afford to lose it. At least for a period of 2 to 3 years we have to standardise the quality and Government should exercise the control and see that only the finest variety is exported. I will put before the Government for their consideration that it is one of their duties to fix the minimum price as well. There is no use allowing...

PRESIDENT: Honourable member may tell me from where the Bombay merchants were getting a large portion of the starch they required—from Italy?

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MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: I think from the Netherlands, Malay and Holland.

MR. S. KRISHNA IYER: From Malaya and Japan.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, not only should we standardise the quality we are to export but I am, in the interests of the agriculturists, bound to advance another argument for the kind consideration of the Government: they must also come into the field and put up a minimum price for the tapioca starch. A minimum price must be fixed and Government must buy that starch.....

PRESIDENT: What? Must Government buy?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Yes. Then alone can this industry thrive in the land. And then Government must export the starch they buy for some time to come. Taking into consideration the necessities of the case and for protecting the industry and the wider interests of the agriculturists who are very poor and the poor women and children who are engaged in the manufacture of starch as a cottage industry, it is a fundamental duty of this Government to fix a minimum price and open depots for buying the starch.

PRESIDENT: Honourable member will soon finish.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: There is another matter that I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. Sir, mere testing will not be enough. It must be tested and kept in warehouses and warehouses alone till it is exported.

PRESIDENT: This is a simple matter. And the Government will be anxious not only in this commodity but in every other commodity to promote legislation in favour of licensed warehouses or bonded warehouses so that the certificates of the warehouses will be negotiable commodity. As a matter of fact Government will shortly promote legislation to that effect but that will involve men in the locality gathering together and starting a bonded warehouse. Government will of course have the building and necessary equipment, and will help persons to start these warehouses, but local persons could combine in order to bring the werehouses into effective operation.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: As an example, one or two warehouses can be started in the Food Stuff Depots now opened by Government as a temporary measure. I am sure the public of Travancore will come forward and take up and work out the warehouse system. Proper testing and safe keeping in the warehouses will make it possible for the export trade to go on an assured basis so that the market may be maintained with certainty.

MR. K. T. MICHAEL (*Changanacherry cum Peermade*): May I know from the honourable member whether the flour will change hands before it is exported?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: It need not, and should not if it is bonded in the warehouse. After taking all the facts into consideration the merchant or producer may produce ten times the quantity required

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for export and the minimum may also vary from times to time but the price must be fixed. If the quantity avilable is of the fixed quality it may be allowed for export. I have only two propositions to put forward on this matter. Testing must continue and control must be enforced to that extent, and Government must also enforce minimum price by undertaking the responsibility of buying it or else the market will not be steady. As there are differences in this matter among our party, we have decided on free voting on this point.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : സർ, പരിപാവനമായ ഒരു ഉദ്ദേശത്തോട് കൂടിയാണ് ഇവിടെ കൺട്രോൾ പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിലാക്കിട്ടുള്ളത്. ആ പദ്ധതികൊണ്ടു പൊതുജനങ്ങളെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ ഉപകാരം ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കാണ്. കൺട്രോൾ സാധനങ്ങൾ ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു വാങ്ങിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കും ധാരാളമുണ്ട്.

PRESIDENT : I do not want to curtail the remarks but honourable members will realise that we are now discussing the General Administration Grant. Tapioca control is quite important but honourable members will realise that a great many other matters might arise in the course of General administration besides tapioca and so I would request that they will confine their remarks to the shortest possible compass.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ കപ്പയെക്കാൾ മറ്റു പല സാധനങ്ങൾക്കും കൂടുതൽ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു അവയെപ്പറ്റിരണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ കപ്പയുടെ നില വളരെ അഭിവൃദ്ധികരമായ ഒന്നാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൺട്രോളിലുള്ള മറ്റു പല സാധനങ്ങളും കിട്ടാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് അവിടെ പലരും വളരെ വിഷമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. കൊച്ചിയോടു അടുത്തു കിടക്കുന്നതായ എന്റെ താലൂക്കിൽ മറ്റും ള്ള താലൂക്കുകളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു തുണി കിട്ടാൻ വളരെവിഷമമുണ്ടു്. ടെക്സ്റ്റയിൽസിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ വിഷമമുള്ളതു്. റൊട്ടേഷൻ അനുസരിച്ചു കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു തുണി കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും ഓരോ കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കും മുറപ്രകാരം തുണി ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും പറയുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതനുസരിച്ചു് ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥയോടുകൂടിയോ മുറപ്രകാരമോ കൊടുക്കാതെ മുൻപു കൊടുത്ത വർക്കുതന്നെ പിന്നെയും പിന്നെയും തുണികൾ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണു്. നിയമസഭയിൽനിന്നും തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട ഒന്നാമത്തെ മെമ്പറന്മാരും പത്തു നാമിനേറ്റഡ് മെമ്പറന്മാരും ഉൾപ്പെട്ടതുമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പല വ്യാപാരങ്ങളേയും പ്രതിനിധീകരിക്കുന്നതുമായ ഒരു

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[Mr. E. K. Madhavan.]

ടെക്സ്റ്റയിൽകമ്മറി ഇവിടെ ശുപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ കമ്മറിയുടെ ഒരു യോഗം കഴിഞ്ഞ മാസം ചേർന്നു കൂടി പല തീരുമാനങ്ങളും ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. കൂടാതെ ഈ മാസം ന്യായം ഒരു മീറ്റിംഗ് കൂടുന്നതാണെന്നു ആ യോഗത്തിൽ തീരുമാനിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. എന്നാൽ ഇതുവരെയും മീറ്റിംഗ് കൂടുകയോ കമ്മറിയുടെ തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ അനുസരിച്ചു ഗവണ്മെന്റ് എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നുള്ള വിവരം വ്യസനസമേതം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ.

PRESIDENT: The Government have accepted all the resolutions without exception.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: കച്ചവടക്കാരെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ചില തീരുമാനങ്ങൾകൂടി ആ കമ്മറി ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഇതേവരെ അതു പ്രാവർത്തികപഥത്തിൽ വന്നിട്ടില്ല.

PRESIDENT: The paper came to me the day before yesterday. I passed orders yesterday.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: അതിരാവിലെയാണു് എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. ചേർന്നു കൂടിയ മീറ്റിംഗിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് ഇന്നലെ മാത്രമേ അങ്ങയുടെ കയ്യിൽ വന്നെത്തിയുള്ളു എന്നുള്ളതുതന്നെ നോക്കുക.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Honourable member is very optimistic. The meeting was on the 21st Mithunam.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: ആ മീറ്റിംഗ് കഴിഞ്ഞശേഷം കമ്മറിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് സ്വീകരിച്ചു വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ നടത്തിയതിനുശേഷം മാത്രമേ കോട്ടാ വിതരണം ചെയ്യാവു എന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ കമ്മീഷണരെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ അതിനെതിരായിട്ടാണ് ഹം കോട്ടാ വിതരണം നടത്തി എന്നുംകൂടി ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. ഞങ്ങളുടെ താലൂക്കിൽ റേഷൻ അനുസരിച്ചല്ലാതെ ധാന്യവിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ, കൊച്ചിയോടു തൊട്ടുകിടക്കുന്ന പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ ഒരു സ്ഥലമായതുകൊണ്ടു് മിക്കധാന്യങ്ങളും കൊച്ചിയിൽ വിറ്റഴിഞ്ഞുപോകുകയേയുള്ളൂ. അതുപോലെതന്നെ ഉള്ളി, മുളക് മുതലായവയുടെ കാര്യംകൂടി അങ്ങയുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. മേൽപറഞ്ഞ സാധനങ്ങൾ ഒരു ക്ലിപ്തവിലയ്ക്കു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു നിയമമുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ആ വിലയ്ക്കു് വില്പനത്തക്കനിലയിൽ അവയ്ക്കു കിട്ടുന്നില്ലെന്നാണു കച്ചവടക്കാർ പറയുന്നതു്. സർ, അങ്ങു പറഞ്ഞു അവയ്ക്കു ക്ഷാമമില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഉള്ളിയും മുളകും കച്ചവടം ചെയ്യുന്നതിലേയ്ക്കു ഇതുയധി

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കും അപേക്ഷകരും വരേണ്ടയാവശ്യമില്ലെന്ന്. അതു പരമാർത്ഥമായിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ അവർ പറയുന്നതു റയിൽവേക്കാക്കും മറ്റും കൈക്കൂലി കൊടുത്തു യാത്രച്ചെലവും ചെയ്തു വളരെ പണച്ചെലവു ചെയ്തതിനുശേഷമേ അവക്ക് ഈ സാധനങ്ങൾകിട്ടുന്നുള്ളു എന്നു. ഇതിലും പരമാർത്ഥം കണ്ടേക്കാം. കച്ചവടക്കാർ വലിയ ലാഭേച്ഛക്കാരായതുകൊണ്ടു് അവക്കു നഷ്ടമാണെന്നു പറയുന്നതിൽ വലിയ കഥയൊന്നുമില്ലായിരിക്കാം. ഏതായാലും കൺട്രോൾസാമാനങ്ങൾ കിട്ടണമെന്നേ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളു. കൺട്രോൾസാമാനങ്ങൾ വന്നാൽ അവിടെ പോലീസുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും എക്സൈസ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും വന്നുചേരും. അവരുടെ സാന്നിദ്ധ്യത്തിൽ ഒന്നരണ്ടു ദിവസം ഏതാനും പിലിക്ക് വലിയ തിക്കിനും തിരക്കിനും ഇടയിൽ സാമാനങ്ങൾ കൊടുത്തു എന്നു വരാം. ഉടനേ തു സാമാനങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം തിരോധാനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. അവ എവിടെ പോകുന്നുവന്നു തുക്കും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. കുറച്ചു ദിവസം കഴിഞ്ഞു കൊച്ചിയിൽനിന്നും ബ്ലാക്കുമാർക്കറ്റിൽ വാങ്ങിച്ചതെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു വീണ്ടും ഈ സാധനങ്ങൾ തന്നെ അവർ വിൽക്കുന്നതു കാണാം. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി അഹശീൽദാരുടെ അടുക്കൽ പറഞ്ഞാൽ പല ജോലിത്തിരക്കുകളിൽ വ്യാപൃതനായിരിക്കുന്ന അദ്ദേഹം ഇക്കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഗൌനിക്കുകയേയില്ല. ഈ വിവരം കൂടി അങ്ങയുടെ അറിവിനായി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു കൺട്രോൾ വിതരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി കാര്യമായി എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യാത്തപക്ഷം—ഉടുക്കാൻ മുണ്ടില്ലാതെ, ആഹാരത്തിന് അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായ മുളക്, ഉള്ളി, ഇവ ഇല്ലാതെ, ക്ഷൌരം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ബ്ലെയിഡില്ലാതെ, സോപ്പുകൂടി ഇല്ലാതെ എന്നുവേണ്ട പരിഷ്കൃതമായ ജീവിതത്തിനു അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായ സാധനങ്ങളുടെ ദൌർല്ലഭ്യത്താൽ അപരിഷ്കൃതമായി പ്രാകൃതന്മാരായി ഞങ്ങൾ ജീവിക്കേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇവയ്ക്ക് ഒരു നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരേണമെന്ന അവശരും ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ പലവിധ വിഷമങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരുമായ എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ ബഹുലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളുടെ പേരിൽ ഞാൻ അങ്ങയോടപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: I move for a closure.

The motion was put and carried.

PRESIDENT: The question before the House is important. I am asking the official members not to take part in the voting.

The question is whether tapioca control in the matter of qualitative testing should continue or should be removed.

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[President.]

The question that qualitative testing should continue was put to vote and declared carried.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: The fixation of a minimum price must also be put.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this, though that question as to minimum price is important and will have to be considered very carefully. I see that there are two opinions on the subject. The trouble arises this way. The honourable member's suggestion is that Government should make themselves responsible for fixing a minimum price for purchasing all the tapioca, for bonding and warehousing the tapioca, for selling the tapioca at another price, for its purchase, for its storage, and for its freedom from damage. That is very serious position which will have to be considered with much more care than can be bestowed on it by a debate in this House.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In a short time, the question of fixing the maximum price was promptly taken up and handled fairly by Government. Therefore in the post-war period, the question of fixing the minimum price must also be taken.

PRESIDENT: I quite understand that, but it is a question that has got to be considered separately, and not to be decided by a side-wind in the course of this debate.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): In the first place I would request the indulgence of the Chair to allow all the other members also to speak on this motion instead of taking all the motions together.

PRESIDENT: Yes. This is a motion on the total allotment. All the honourable members who have given cut motions will also be called up and this would be the main discussion on the grants.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: I move:

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,91,474 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

(To speak on the urgent need of having a department of commerce with a full-time competent Secretary in the Secretariat to be in charge of the department.)

PRESIDENT: It is open to the honourable member to speak on general matters. He has given two motions.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: I am speaking on motion No. 182.

PRESIDENT: Honourable member will move motion Nos. 182 and 183 together.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: The opinion of the House might be ascertained in regard to having a department of commerce.

The Government must be pleased to constitute a department of commerce attached to the Secretariat. At present several questions relating to industries and commerce are handled by one of the

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Secretaries whose portfolios include several subjects such as development, controls, land revenue and other matters. I am of the opinion that proper and special attention ought to be given to commercial matters because in the existing nature of the arrangements in the Secretariat, that is not possible. Further, it is only during the last 9 years that the Government have become commercially and industrially minded. Before then the Government were an organisation simply for the collection of revenue and for policing the State, and getting the decision of the civil courts and carrying on the day-to-day administration. But today we are placed under different conditions. The State's revenue is now mainly made up from Customs, Income-tax, income from Government's Industrial concerns and Commercial investments and Electricity. These are all commercial departments and I hope their work will increase in the post-war period.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p. m.

The House re-assembled at 3 p. m. after lunch with the Dewan-President in the Chair.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: Sir, the problems that confronted Travancore during the last five years of war, were entirely new and in my opinion mostly commercial. For example, the need arose for Government to interfere and get us the shipping tonnage for exporting our products. Government had to actively interfere and obtain war orders for the purpose of keeping coir industry and the coir spinning industry going on. Government had to interfere and see that the ban on our shipments to various parts of the world was removed. And in regard to the dollar exchange that was required by the Government of Travancore for the purchase of a machinery for the Fertilizers and Chemicals, it was a difficult task, and finally the Government succeed in getting it done. Even now, Sir, we are unable to get the necessary machinery required by our industries because the Import Permit Controller does not issue permits particularly to business people in Travancore. We have, therefore, on every occasion to appeal to you to come to our help, and yet we are not getting it quickly. There is a considerable amount of delay. Even now, the Export Trade Controllers, both at Madras and Delhi insist on continuing some restriction. In regard even to the removal of restriction the 1941-1942 basis was adopted. We placed the matter before the Head of Administration. He interfered and made it possible for us to get that basis altered. These are instances where Government have to apply their commercial talents and commercial experience. Our Government and their officers have to be fully conversant especially in the post-war period, with every little detail connected with commercial matters if we should really keep ourselves abreast of the times. It is my personal experience that in each one of these cases the commercial people can get assistance and relief, only by approaching the Head of the administration, because very naturally Government are not equipped

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[Mr. M. L. Janardhana Pillai.]

for carrying on that particular form of work. Even the Dewan is seriously handicapped because he has not got the right sort of the Secretariat to deal with these matters. Our Secretariat was designed for entirely a different purpose. These subjects require special training and special knowledge. I do realise that Government may have very great difficulty on securing the necessary personnel but at the same time I have no fear that if this department is organised under you and with your experience as Commerce member of the Government of India, which you can bring to bear upon the working of the department, I have no doubt that it will become a success, During the post-war period our trade is to play a very important part in the economic life of the country. With a land revenue which is steadily being reduced by Government for the purpose of giving relief to the agriculturists, we have to look to commerce and industry to enable Government to provide the necessary finances for the country. I therefore think that if, an economic blizzard which God forbid were to happen some years after the war. I am afraid that we may have to handle the situation with very great care and very great experience in regard to these matters. Therefore, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that we should have a Secretariat which should deal with these matters efficiently, promptly and with a command of all the special equipment and knowledge which is needed for this special purpose. I have been supported on previous occasions in regard to this matter on the floor of this House by the honourable member, Mr. Krishna Iyer, and the honourable member Mr. Pereira. They also expressed their opinions and requested the Government to organise a Department of Commerce. I trust I will get the unstinted support of all the Sections of this House in requesting Government to bring into existence this organisation which is absolutely necessary for the economic improvement of the country.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal put forward by my friend Mr. Janardhanan Pillai. In recent years we have increased our commerce many fold and these create the necessity for a full-time officer. I would only like to make an important suggestion that a Board of Trade should be constituted comprising all the official members, with a full time Secretary as the head of the Department, and with the official and non-official members of not only this House but outside the House as well. If that is not acceptable at the beginning, I would plead not only for the appointment of full-time Secretary but an Advisory Board to be added to that. Sir, my point is this. The knowledge that we, business men possess by the experience of several years is sure to be an asset to the promotion of the success either of a Board or an Advisory Committee.

PRESIDENT: I was very keen to get commercial men to represent the University in the Research Board. I found a fairly large number of them pleading inability to spare the time to attend the meetings. I may say that the Government's views are now tending towards the formation of something like a Board of Trade, as also some other Boards which are being envisaged. But honourable members must assure that leading commercial men will really give their time

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to the business because at present, for instance, there is an organisation regarding research which is meeting me every Sunday afternoon. Similarly Government would be very glad to have this organisation. But does the honourable member think that commercial men will be able to spend the time and energy for that purpose?

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: I am so glad to have your declaration that the intention of Government is for the promotion of a Board of Trade. As regards the co-operation from business men I am sure that sufficient number will be forthcoming.

My first plea is for the constitution of a Board of Trade with a full-time Secretary as its head. If that is not feasible let us have an Advisory Committee. Failing that the need for a full-time Secretary is absolutely essential. I say so, Sir, for two reasons. Commerce is a very zealous business which demands constant attention. I can definitely assure the members of this House that the profit of a commercial concern is in the exact ratio with the quantum of attention paid.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I ask the honourable member whether it is the member's suggestion that Government should embark on commercial ventures?

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA; Absolutely no. I am coming to that at the end of my speech. As a matter of fact I hold the very opposite view. I press for this appointment of a full-time officer for two reasons. The greater the attention that is paid the greater is our chance of success. Time is of the greatest essence in the matter of commerce. Much may be gained by prompt action and much may be lost by inaction. It is therefore that I say a full-time officer in order to gather all data and various informations about various business will be of great assistance to the commercial population. There will be very serious competition in the economic sphere in peace time and unless commerce is piloted by the best brains, it will not stand the competition from other countries. It is in that connection that I plead for the inclusion of non-officials. Coming to the point raised by Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai I will point out that I was myself about to strike a note of warning.

I was surprised and pained at the growing request from several members of the House that Government should do every kind of business. In other words Government should be No. 1 commerce department of the State. I am against the State interfering with private enterprises. Having said that I earnestly request every section of the House to strongly support the constitution of a Board of Trade or an Advisory Committee or appointment of a full-time officer.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I had the honour of putting forward this proposition to Government over ten years ago as Chairman of the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce. That was in the days of your predecessor. During my experience of 30 or 40 years I have not come across many Heads of Administration who have had much information on commercial matters. But, you Sir, had been head of the commerce department for a few months at least. For this reason I feel sure that

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[Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar.]

you will be able to appreciate the extreme need for the step urged by Mr. Janardanan Pillai. The Government's functions in trade and commerce comprise now banks, insurance shares, (Government is holding quite a number of shares) Government securities, transport, industries, shipping, produce, ports and railways. These are all commercial organisations. To be able to administer these commercial organisations Government itself must be a super commercial organisation, because almost all the subjects mentioned, relate to commerce. It was suggested that either there should be a Board of Trade as in England or a department of commerce as in British India or at least something in the nature of an Advisory Committee. I would suggest that a departmental organisation would not suffice as you yourself have assured us.

PRESIDENT: I am speaking from my experience as Member of Commerce for the Government of India. What I found there was that although on every conceivable occasion 6 Secretaries were working under me under various heads, we had to refer to Chamber of Commerce or Advisory Committee or special committees for specific commercial subjects.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: What we want in the first instance would be a department of commercial intelligence or information. We do want up-to-date information on all matters relating to commerce and industry. We do want statistics, up-to-date statistics, in respect of every matter relating to commerce and industry. No doubt some of our Chambers of Commerce are keeping statistics. I do not think they are sufficient for the carrying out of such multiplicity of matters as the Government has before it. My suggestion would, therefore be, to appoint a non-official Board of Trade, membership of which should be confined to those actually in commerce.

In the absence of that, there may be a commercial intelligence department presided over by a Government officer but the members should be almost all of them commercial men. Or in the third place, the Chambers of Commerce in Travancore may be strengthened, they may be given further grants and they may be made statutory and given some statutory functions to perform say to collect and give all the information that the departments require.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: The honourable member spoke about grants to the Chambers of Commerce. Are they lacking in funds?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I know that most Chambers of Commerce are suffering from lack of funds and are therefore not able to extend their activities as they would or the public would desire.

In the event of the Government not undertaking to run a Government department, in the event of the Government not undertaking a quasi-Government department, I say that a grant may be given to the Chamber of Commerce and it may be given the responsibility of collecting and passing on to the Government all information that may

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be required by Government. There are a few matters in which Travancore is interested. For example Travancore is dependent to a great extent, upon the rate of import duty levied in British India as well as the tariff in British India in respect of articles imported into Travancore. There, without having any voice in the matter, British India is able to levy import and export duties as well as to determine the tariff value on, for example copra and other produces in which we are vitally interested. I would suggest that, as a corollary to this proposition, we must have a liaison officer with the Commerce Department of the Government of India who would, whenever necessary, give advice and information to the Department of Commerce in the Government of India as well.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. That is not possible in the present Indian constitution, for the reason that, although individual members of an Indian State can contact members of the Government of India, yet as a State, we can only contact the officers of the Government of India and the Viceroy only through the Political Department and the Liaison officer suggested must correspond with the political department which political department is also keeping liaison with the department and they with whitehall, so that, technically, at present, we are not able to address any department of the Government of India or of the Madras Government. Supposing I have to write to the Governor of Madras on any matter, technically I have to address Col. Edwards, who has to address, let us say, Sir Francis Wiley, who has to address the Viceroy to get the consent of the Viceroy that the matter may be answered by the Governor of Madras and then the whole thing goes back and then the Governor is asked to address me. But all that process has been short-circuited during the last four or five years and direct correspondence is taking place between the various States and the Government of India.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: That is a matter of procedure. We might have to proceed through the British Resident, that is all. Nevertheless, if a commercial man in Travancore is able to give information on all matters in which Travancore is interested, it may be a great thing in the interests of Travancore and of British India.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I have great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House, which is very ably supported by my friend, Mr. Krishna Aiyar. Today, matters relating to commercial affairs in Travancore are taken up by three or four departments. Such very important questions like fixation of tariff values, fixing the market values and matters relating to Ports are all being looked after by the Excise Department. Work in regard to status enquiring reports is attended to by the Department of Industries and other miscellaneous matters are looksd after by the Secretariat. More important matters which do not come within the orbit of all these departments are being dealt with by the Head of the Administration.

I know that eighteen years ago, in 1923, the question of having a separate department of commerce was put before the House and then the Government showed some sympathy in having a co-ordinating

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[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

officer. But nothing has so far been done. As my friends have pointed out, the importance of commercial matters have become very prominent within the last seven or eight years. We have been troubling always the Head of the administration in the solution of certain questions and in getting advice on several matters. Sometimes the commercial community hates giving all these troubles to the Head of the administration, but it is very difficult to get many things done by the existing machinery here. If you go through the real facts relating to the huge contracts which were given in 1944, amounting to over Rs. 60 lakhs and odd and the contracts in 1945, you will see the difficulties which will have to be experienced by those people who have taken up these orders, may be out of patriotic motives or by money-making motives. We have brought many a time to your attention the long delays in getting our money, the long delays in getting the bills which are prepared and sent on by us to the department signed, and how many lakhs of rupees are lying with the Government of India without any interest and how we poor people have to pay interest to the various Banks in Travancore. After all this, not only have we to suffer loss but we are not actually able to get finance to run the show. And another difficulty is that the Government, when once they have been able to get the contractors, do not care whether we are getting money for the goods supplied, but they are at the same time very, very careful to see that we supply the goods in time. That is a hardship...

PRESIDENT: Has the honourable member or anybody connected with the trade ever pointed out this difficulty of financing their enterprise?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: No, Sir. We have been able to find the finance, but... .....

PRESIDENT: Do you think there would have been any difficulty in getting the finance if you had put it forward?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN: As I said, it is not a question of our difficulty in getting the finance but it is a question of our losing our legitimate profit. So, considering all this, it is very important that an efficient man is earmarked to look after exclusively and solely these various interests, which my friend, Mr. Krishna Aiyar enumerated at length.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Commercial activities in Travancore have been extended in recent years and they are bound to increase in the post-war years. As it stands, the machinery which handles commerce and industry is very cumbersome and it is the Secretariat; and a little bit of co-ordination would be more effective. As such, it is opportune for this Government to organise and establish a branch to deal with commerce and industry and to arrange the problems of labour as well. The difficulties may increase in the post-war period to a greater extent, and industrial enterprises will also have to be co-ordinated, so that..... .....

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the honourable Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai say whether he thinks that Travancore can stand alone in the field of commerce in the post-war period?

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MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Commerce presupposes two parties. We cannot stand alone. As far as possible, if there is an agency to represent our interests and to co-ordinate our work with that of other parts of the world it will always be better and an agency sponsored by the Government will be more responsible and effective.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I ask of Mr. Nataraja Pillai again, for the purpose, will not it be sufficient if one of the secretaries to Government is asked to do work in connection with commerce along with his other duties?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: It is the latter part of the question that brings the trouble. I can very well understand the position. I am not enamoured of such big names like the Director of Commerce or the Secretary of Commerce etc. If a separate officer who has specialised in commerce or who will be given opportunities of getting sufficient knowledge and equipment is appointed to handle commerce, it will be sufficient and advantageous.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: I ask Mr. Nataraja Pillai over again, whether he is for a fresh appointment?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: I am not at all concerned with questions of fresh appointments. You may distribute the work in the Secretariat to other Secretaries and free one for this work. The only thing is he should be free to attend to this particular work. From this side of the House, I.....

MR. A. K. BHASKAR (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): Is there any Secretary in the Secretariat who has had commercial training?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: I am not going into such questions at all. If there is a trained man he may be selected, or if there is no trained man, one may be trained, or if one cannot be trained a fresh appointment of an expert may be made for the time being. The only thing is in the interests of the country, we must have a specialised officer, and if we cannot get a specialist we must train one officer in such matters so that he may be an expert in the line and be in complete charge of commerce and industries.

And along with commerce and industry, we must look to the question of labour. True it is that we have passed a number of progressive labour legislations, but we have not as yet established a separate department.

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Is the honourable member aware that there is now a separate, full-time labour officer?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Yes, I know that for the time being, an officer has been appointed. He has not been made permanent, and if I understand the notification correctly, he will continue.....

PRESIDENT: That is not quite accurate. Government have decided that there should be a separate labour organisation. A gentleman has been appointed to perform the duties of a Labour Commissioner with whom will be associated others who will be trained. One member of this honourable House has been sent to England to be

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[President.]

trained in labour organisation and labour methods. It is hoped that two others will be sent by this Government. It is hoped to utilise all that personnel and organise a labour department on proper basis.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: That is welcome news. As far as labour in Travancore is concerned, it will be proud of such steps being taken. And if an efficient officer is also appointed to look into the welfare of labour, that will be a very great thing on a right direction.

As far as these commercial activities are concerned, we have heard of our young men being trained as statisticians in the secretariat of the Government of India. But they are working in other departments. That should not be. We must also have reliable data of statistics regarding industrial conditions in our country. It is high time, therefore, that the Government organised a commerce department and placed it in charge of a separate officer.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: On a point of order, Sir. This is only one of the several cut motions tabled under the total allotment. There are other motions of that type.

PRESIDENT: You will get your time.

MR. K. G. THOMAS (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalai*); Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting the motion before the House. I am very much in sympathy with the idea of having a separate department for commerce and industry, but I am opposed to the constitution of an Advisory Committee for collecting information in regard to commercial matters. There are several chambers of commerce in Travancore who can assist the proposed Department of Commerce and Industry in the matter of collecting information regarding commercial problems. In view of the fact that the country is to be developed on industrial lines and in view of the fact that the success of this country depends entirely in promoting the various industries of the State to a very large extent, it would only augur well for the advancement of our commerce if a separate department in the shape of Commerce and Industry is constituted and I strongly recommend Government to do so.

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Sir, the motion before the House has been tabled for the purpose of discussing the necessity of having a Department of Commerce, with a full time officer in charge of that department.

Sir, the question under discussion is whether we do require a separate organisation *i. e.*, a Commerce Department, or whether one of the branches of the Secretariat, presided over by a Secretary to Government, should be so developed as to concentrate itself exclusively on matters relating to commerce and industry. Government do concede that this is a matter of supreme importance in our present programme of economic development. All the leading members of the House who represent commerce and industry have emphatically supported the proposition for setting up a regular organised machinery for sponsoring the development of commerce and industry. I would

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assure the House, and particularly the honourable members representing business interests, that Government would view this question with the utmost possible sympathy and consideration.

I may, however, point out in this connection that questions relating to commere and industry are already receiving adequate attention at the hands of Government, even as it is. The Secretariat is not without a separate branch of its own, devoting its concentrated attention to matters connected with commerce and industry. Our Secretariat organisation as the honourable members are aware resolves itself into various departments, or sections as we say here; and one of the most important among these sections is the Development Section. The officer who now functions as Development Secretary, as may be well known to many of the honourable members, was for a long time the Director of Industries and Labour Commissioner in the State, after having had special training in the West.

The honourable member who tabled this motion, my esteemed friend Mr. M. L. Janardhana Pillai, is apparently of the view that subjects connected with commerce and industry are being attended to in the Secretariat at present in a rather haphazard manner by any one of the several Secretaries, along with many other items of work. Of course one Secretary may have to deal with matters relating to several departments, such as Land Revenue, Income Tax, Accounts, Devaswoms etc. If my honourable friend is under the impression that such a Secretary, in the midst of his multifarious preoccupations, is attending also to matters connected with commerce and industry, I am constrained to say that his information is incorrect.

Sir, matters relating to commerce and industry are dealt with almost exclusively by the Development Secretary. All the Development Departments, together with the Public Works Department and the Department of Electricity, constitute his portfolio. It may be remembered that the Public Works Department is now one of the most important among our Development Departments, including, as it does, most of our major Postwar Development Schemes.

MR. P. S. MOHAMED: കമേർഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറി എന്ന പേരിൽ ഒരാളെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനു പകരം ഡെവലപ്പ്മെന്റ് സെക്രട്ടറി എന്ന പേരിൽ ഒരാളെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ ജോലികളെല്ലാം നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കുമോ?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: നിശ്ചയമായിട്ടും നടത്താൻ സാധിക്കും.

As the honourable member Mr. P. S. Mahomed, very pertinently pointed out, it is only a difference in nomenclature. But the honourable member seems to forget that there is already a Development Secretary who is mainly concerned with industrial and commercial matters as also matters relating to Public Works and Electricity. The Secretary in charge of the Public Works Department is not merely concerned with the repair of roads and bridges here and there. His main preoccupation is the control of the policy of the Public Works and Electricity Departments which have to carry out various items of

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[Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi.]

works that are essential for the economic development of the country. These two Departments have schemes of far reaching importance, particularly large scale Hydro Electric Schemes; and the Development Secretary is dealing with all matters connected with our Postwar Development Schemes. It is for this reason that these two Departments have been attached to the Development Section. Having regard to the nature of the work turned out in this Section, as I have endeavoured to explain for the information of the honourable House, we do not really require a separate Commerce Department as such. In any event, I may assure the House that, during the last decade, the Development Section has actually been developing on up-to-date lines as the Commerce Department of the Government of Travancore.

The honourable member, Mr. S. Krishna Aiyar, has made certain constructive suggestions. With his wide and varied business experience, especially in his capacity as the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, he has an intimate knowledge of the manner in which the State has been developing its commerce and industry in recent years. He would urge the formation of a non-official Board of Trade, comprising prominent representatives of commercial interests or, in the alternative, the composition of a Commercial Intelligence Bureau, or the development of the Chamber of Commerce by means of the grant of a subsidy and sufficient powers. My honourable friend Mr. Pereira, the veteran industrialist would, on the other hand, prefer a Commercial Secretariat with an Advisory Board, or a separate Advisory Board with a Commerce Officer attached to it. The honourable member, Mr. Nataraja Pillai, has stated that, apart from the *modus operandi* and the particular manner in which a body may be constituted, a separate organisation is necessary in view of the present stage of our economic development and the lines of development in the near future.

All these suggestions will be carefully considered by the Government. Whether we should set up a separate organisation, or whether the Development Section of the Secretariat should be constituted into a regular Commercial Secretariat, are only matters of detail. At the present moment, however, I would assure the honourable House on behalf of the Government that all matters relating to Commerce and Industry are receiving adequate attention in our Development Secretariat.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: Sir, in view of the assurance given by Government I do not want to press it. But I might add that the commercial community are quite prepared to offer their services in any direction which the Government may ask us to do. I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: I move :—

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,91,474 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re. 1.

My object is to speak on the need of still further improving the efficiency of the Secretariat."

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Sir, you have been pleased to make the announcement that in future sixty per cent. of the establishment in the Secretariat will be recruited through the Public Service Commissioner and that forty per cent. will be taken from the various offices working outside Trivandrum and from among those who are working in other departments and considered to be very efficient for that purpose. On behalf of the people I may thank you, Sir, for the assurance so given to us. I know of several efficient men who 'are working' outside Trivandrum in the various departments in mofussil areas. They are unable to get their promotions in the normal course of their career nor do they get opportunities to show their merit and usefulness. For instance sometime back there was one gentleman working as a Sub-Registrar in a mofussil station. He is a distinguished scholar and savant. Nobody ever recognised his learning and his abilities. It is only recently, Sir, after knowing his abilities he was drafted to the University where I understand he is doing very good work. He would not have been able to show his special merits if he was in that out of the way place as Sub-Registrar. From this point of wiew, Sir, the announcement made by you is of great importance. I am sure that will also improve the efficiency of the service in a general manner. I am saying this because a few people who have luckily entered in the Secretariat alone are considered to be generally efficient for promotions both in the Secretariat and in outside departments. There is no chance for the others who are in mofussil offices. Those who are outside Trivandrum and who are working in other Departments are equally efficient but they do not get a chance for speedy promotion as those in the Secretariat obtain. Not only that, the persons employed in the Secretariat are alone always sent out on promotions. Whenever vacancies of higher appointments occur in departments outside the Secretariat, promotions are given to the staff of the Secretariat and sent out to fill these places on the plea that they are getting a higher salary than the next legal claimant in mofussil stations. Often times it has happened that at the right time when after all a man of the mofussil station has to get a promotion then the chance is denied to him in preference to a Secretariat man. All these mean discontent and heart burning among the officers working in mofussil departments. That is one of the prime reasons why efficiency has suffered among the services. Again, Sir, even in the Secretariat, there are instances where the junior men are promoted and sent out over senior men.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the member whether in view of the fact that the President has already announced the policy of Government in this matter, there is any necessity for discussion so far as this cut motion is concerned?

MR. M. L. JANARDHANA PILLAI: The policy has been announced by Government and I am thankful for that. Certain things are still happening in Government and if I am enabled to bring to the attention of Government that such things should not happen hereafter by means of this cut motion, Government will be able to remedy the matter. That is why I want to move this cut motion.

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[Mr. M. L. Janardhana Pillai]

My friend Mr. K. C. Karunakaran pointed out that inordinate delays were caused in the secretariat as a consequence of which great difficulties and losses were experienced by commercial people. On one occasion the extent of bills that were delayed came to Rs. 40 lakhs; on another occasion it was 78 lakhs. All that was required was the mere affixing of the signature of a particular officer in the Secretariat. The signature could not be obtained for days and months together. The paper concerned simply would not move, but remained for weeks and months with that particular officer of the Secretariat. That was the position. The bills of persons who supplied materials to Government would not be paid because that officer had merely to countersign it and he would not do it for months together. However much one may be alert in expediting the matter the Government machinery would not rise equal to the occasion. Several bills of the contractors have not been paid in time. Such were our experiences. I may also refer in this connection to the difficulties experienced by the rice merchants of Travancore. They could not get the release of the gunny bags for months and months. They cannot get final orders about adjustments of shortages even for one year although the Director had finalised and sent his reports to the then Chief Secretary. The matter had to be brought to the notice of Government by the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce and yet it did not reach the Dewan. It is still pending. That is the way in which Secretariat sometimes functions. I have brought this cut motion to state that that should not be the way how the Secretariat should function. The Secretariat which is the seat of energy, intelligence and capacity and the hub of the Government must function more efficiently. To cite another instance, I urged through the Chamber of commerce about two years ago for the passing of a legislation in regard to the speedy disposal of commercial suits on promissory notes The Dewan very kindly called the High Cour'st opinion. Myself and a few others waited on deputation on the Judges of the High Court. They duly recommended the matter. The matter was pending in the Secretariat for a very long time. It was only very recently during this session that the bill was brought up for consideration. Just imagine the difficulties the commercial community experienced on this matter. I can quote very many instances of this kind. I am glad to see that some improvement has now been effected in the working of the Secretariat and I trust that in the fullness of time, delays will not happen in the Secretariat which is the brain centre of the administration of the State.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I move:

"to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,91,474 for General and Revenue Secretariat by Re 1."

My object in moving this motion is to discuss about the necessity of establishing a separate Chengannur Taluk. Sir, during your recent visit to Chengannur in connection with the inauguration of the Government Hospital, you as a generous patron of all good causes, have been pleased to give us hopes that Chengannur would be made a separate taluk in the near future. In answer to my question No. 45

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which was answered on the floor of this House a few days ago Government have been pleased to state that the matter was engaging the very serious consideration of Government. Sir, the number of pakuthies, the total area and population, the total revenue of the present Thiruvalla taluk and above all the importance of the place are such that it is absolutely necessary to create a separate Chengannur taluk as was the case before the year 1098. There are at present 26 pakuthies and a total population of about 4 lakhs. Since there are, a full fledged treasury and also a second class Magistrate's court, I would submit that the question of constituting a separate Chengannur taluk has become a matter of easy solution and that it can be conveniently done by abolishing the Second Class Magistrate's court and appointing a Tahsildar Magistrate in that place. The additional expenditure that may be incurred on account of the creation of a separate taluk under the present circumstance would not exceed in any event Rs. 2,000 per annum which I am sure is not a very serious matter for Government to recon with.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether he conceives of a change of the jurisdiction of the Thiruvalla taluk?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: The proposed creation of a separate Chengannur Taluk would naturally involve some change in the territorial jurisdiction of the existing taluk.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know the member's idea of the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed Chengannur taluk?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I would even concede that the Tahsildars at Thiruvalla and Chengannur may be invested with magisterial powers over the pakuthies in the respective taluks. So, my submission is that without any further delay Government may be pleased to create a separate Chengannur taluk.

In moving this cut motion I would also urge upon the attention of Government the necessity for constructing residential quarters in Trivandrum for the use of the members of Legislature when they come to Trivandrum for attending the meetings of Legislature and Committees. I need not elaborate much on this point because it is a matter of common knowledge for you, Sir, and others that the members who are coming to Trivandrum in connection with the meetings of both the Houses of Legislature are experiencing much difficulty and inconvenience in the matter of getting suitable places for their residence.

PRESIDENT: As this is a matter in which the honourable members will be interested I may say that Government hoped very much on embarking a building scheme. But their hopes have not been realised and so Government are trying to build a certain number of residential quarters in a very central locality in Trivandrum, and it is the hope of the Government that some of those quarters will be reserved for members of the two Houses of Legislature.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I inform you Sir, that some of the officers under you have got a special nack to find out loop-holes for depriving the public of the benefits of your generous actions. May I trust that such attempts will not be.....

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PRESIDENT : So far as this matter is concerned—I am not concerned with other matters—the post-war reconstruction budget includes Rs. 5 lakhs on this particular building programme and that will be started in the course of the year. Plans have been prepared and approved of.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Sir, I was referring to the difficulties that may be created by some officers under you in the matter of reestablishing a separate Chengannur taluk.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Does the member want to include any pakuthy from Pathanamthitta taluk in the proposed Chengannur taluk?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : No. My submission is that a separate Chengannur taluk may be constituted with the pakuthies of the old Chengannur taluk.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Is the member aware that formerly the Chengannur taluk comprised some of the pakuthies of the Pathanamthitta taluk also?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : I do not want to include them.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : I want to know whether the old pakuthies which have been included, for example the Mallapuzhacherri pakuthi, in the Chengannur taluk should be included in the proposed Chengannur taluk?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLI : I do not want it to be included.

PRESIDENT : The time for the Demand having lapsed, this and the remaining cut motions lapse.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 4,73,516 under Demand IV—General Administration—Excluding Financial Secretariat, Accountant-General's Office Legislative Bodies and Local Fund Audit Department was put and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant was made.

PRESIDENT : I hope honourable members will so regulate their activities as to speak on more important motions.

DEMAND V—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT, ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, LOCAL FUND AUDIT DEPARTMENT AND DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTANTS APPRENTICES.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 2,98,803 under Demand V—General administration—Financial Secretariat, Accountant-General's Office, Local Fund Audit Department and Divisional Accountants Apprentices.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : Sir, I beg to move :

"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,269 for Financial Secretariat by Rs. 10 to urge the necessity for giving more representation to backward communities in appointments to the Financial Secretariat."

Sir, the recent Government order enhancing the age for retirement of Government servants from 55 to 58 would have been welcomed if it was a war-time measure. But as it now stands it has

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